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DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE REPORT

# CHINA'S AIRBORNE PHOTORECONNAISSANCE CAPABILITY (U)

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# CHINA'S AIRBORNE PHOTORECONNAISSANCE CAPABILITY (U)

DDB-1300-150-80

Information Cutoff Date: 30 September 1979

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This is a Department of Defense Intelligence Document
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Directorate for Research,
Defense Intelligence Agency

Author: [redacted]

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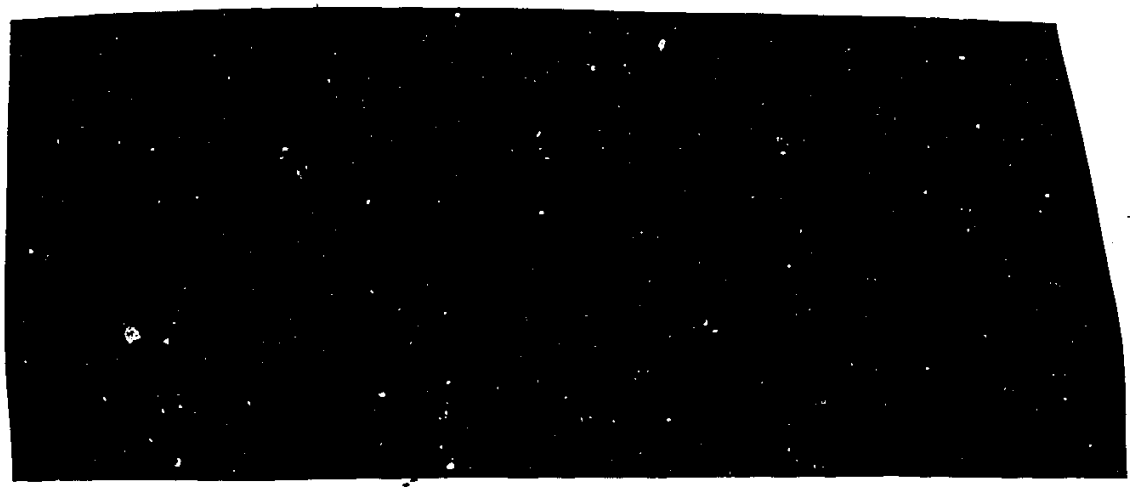

Figure 2. (U) MiG-19/FARMER—Photoreconnaissance Variant.

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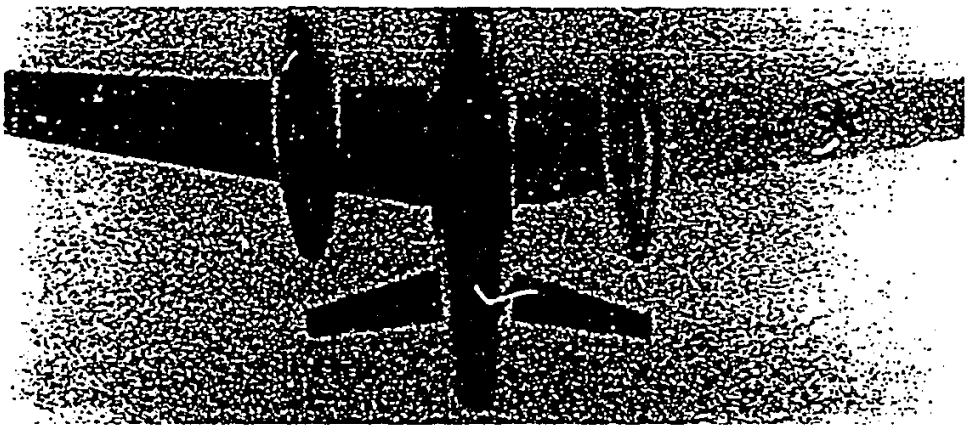

Figure 3. (U) IL-28R/BEAGLE with Bomb Bay Cameras.



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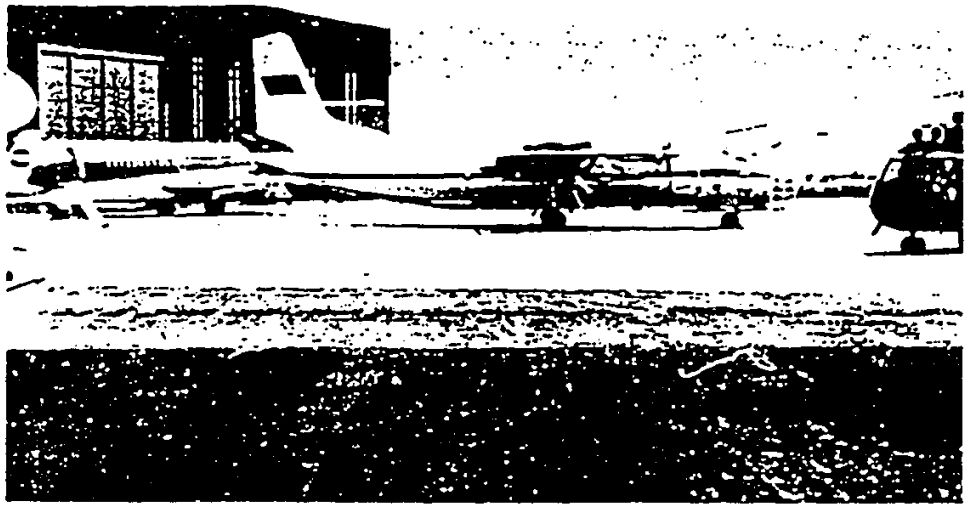

An-30/CLANK

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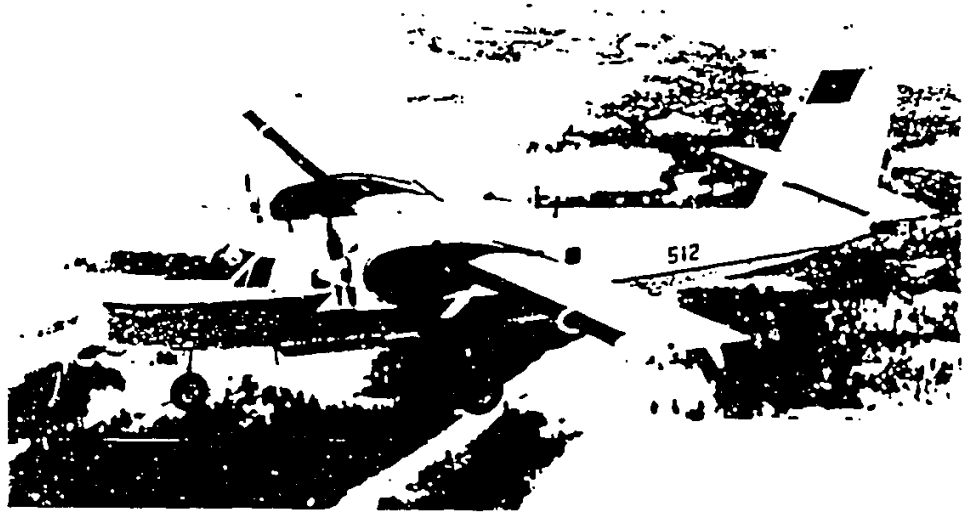


Twin Otter

Figure 4. (U) An-30/CLANK and Twin Otter Aerial Survey Aircraft.



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Figure 6. (U) Photo Exploitation.



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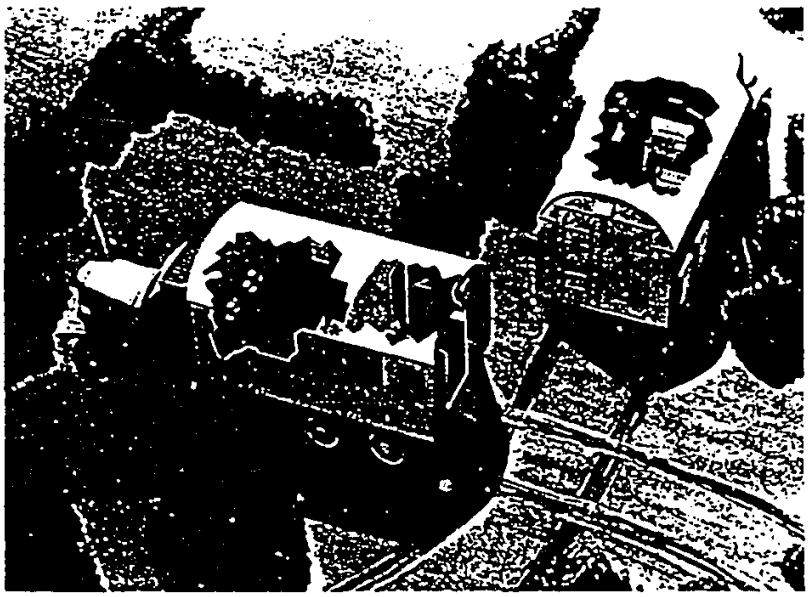

Figure 7. (U) Photo Processing and Exploitation Vans.



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## 3. FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS/REQUIREMENTS

[redacted] For the near term, China will continue to rely on the FARMER and BEAGLE photoreconnaissance variants to meet its tactical needs. The F-9/FANTAN fighter-bomber could also be used in the role (figure 9). The performance characteristics of this aircraft are similar to those of the MiG-19; however, it is believed that some F-9s have a bomb bay which would allow some flexibility in camera configuration. The use of Tu-16/BADGERs for maritime reconnaissance is also expected. Chinese developments in the area of photoreconnaissance probably will be most influenced by the mobility potential of likely adversaries, specifically by the large Soviet mechanized and armor force along their northern border. The need for a more responsive photoreconnaissance system should impact on development of new camera systems and platforms, as well as improved processing and exploitation procedures.

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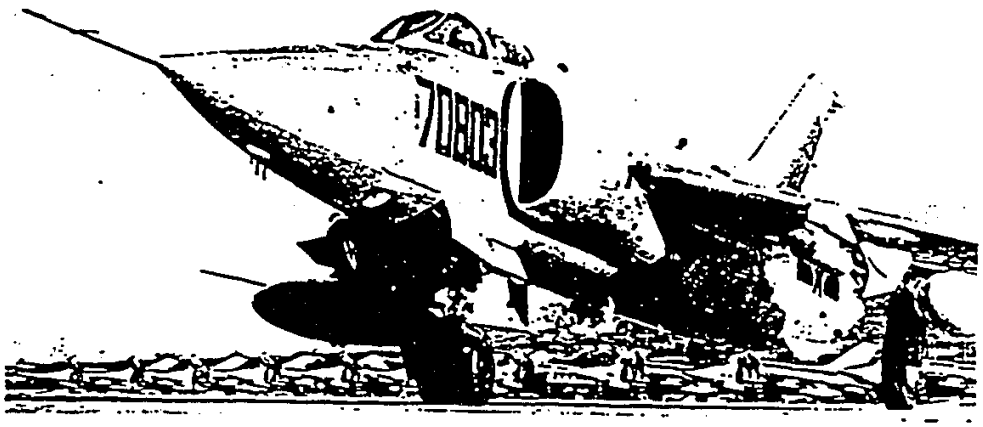

Figure 9. (U) F-9/FANTAN.

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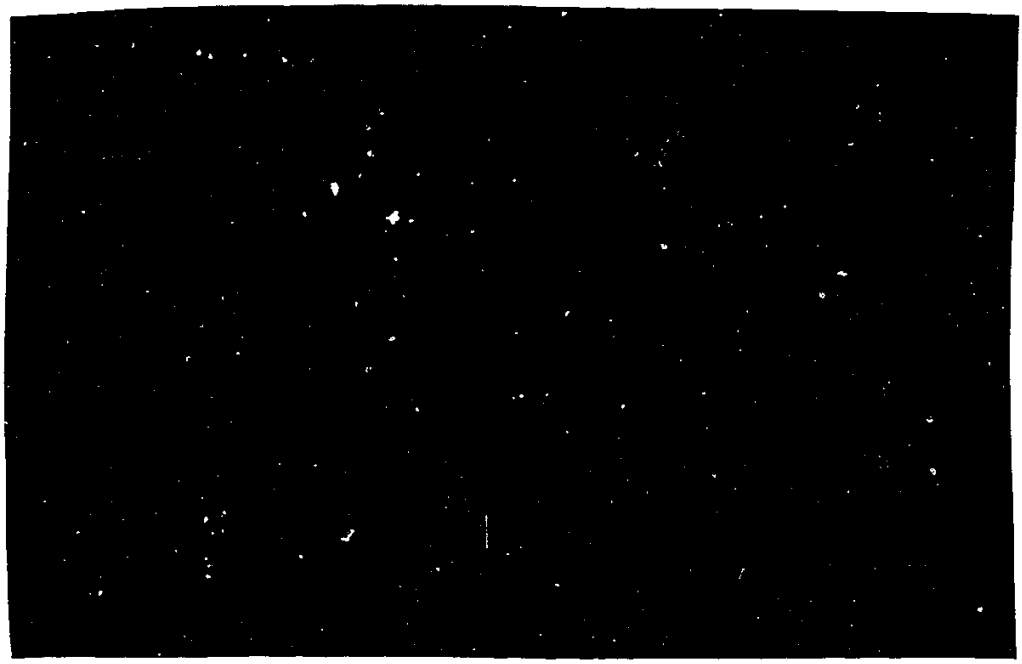

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Figure 10. (U) MiG-21/FISHBED.



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